Statement

Statement-wise details of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided upto 31.07.1996

S. No.	Circle/State	Total No. of inhabitated villages	VPTs as on 30.07.1996.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	18878
2.	Assam	22224	8676
3.	Bihar	79208	12507
4.	Gujarat including Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu.	18125	13028
5.	Haryana	7018	6708
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	4103
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	6453	1506
8.	Karnataka	27024	13789
9.	Kerala	1530	1530
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	28073
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	40430	23441
12.	North-East including Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur.	14197	2530
13.	Orissa	46989	12973
14.	Punjab	13252	8514
15.	Rajasthan	37889	12864
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	20196	14469
17.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	75462	17864
18.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	37106	10112
19.	West Bengal including Sikkim	38337	8210
20.	A&N Island	292	93
21.	MTNL. Delhi	191	191
	TOTAL	603906	220059

Promotion of Amateur Radio Activity in India

3095. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need to promote Amateur Radio Activity in India on a very large scale;

(b) whether its MPLAD Scheme has helped in its promotion;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to promote Amateur Radio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Need for promoting Amateur activity in India is well recognised.

(b) to (d) Under the MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development) Scheme, a project "HAM Amateur Radio Station/Club in every High School" for implementing in Government and Government aided Schools/ Colleges was formulated by Department of Electronics in consultation with Department of Programme Implementation with a view to promoting Amateur Radio.

Drug abusers in the country

3096. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of drug abusers in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government for prevention of drug abusers in schools and colleges;

(c) whether Government are considering introducing capital punishment for drug traffickers; and

(d) the number of drug traffickers sentenced so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) No National survey has been conducted to assess the number of drug abusers in the country. However, the drug addicts registered during the last 3 years for treatment in the Drug De-addiction Centres/ Counselling Centres financially assisted by the Ministry of Welfare under the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention are as under:—

1993-94	— 2,90,628
1994-95	— 3,12, 118
1995-96	— 2,81,266

(b) Government is implementing a Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention under which grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organisations for providing services such as identification, treatment, counselling, follow-up, rehabilitation, awareness education etc. for drug abuse prevention, besides education work for prohibition. The provision is made under this Scheme to assist universities including schools of social work or such other institutions of higher learning also. 90% of the cost of project is borne by the Govt. of India. In addition, the Ministry of Welfare is also engaged in educating the Masses and creating Public Awareness about Drug Abuse Prevention through mass media including advertisements, Radio, Video spots/Quickies, Films and educative print material.

(c) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 provides for death penalty in cases of certain second offences.

(d) State-wise information of convictions is not maintained. However, the following number of convictions were reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau:

1994	1995	1996 (Upto 31.08.1996)
1245	2456	1472

Consulting agency to study expansion of Cochin Port

3097. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any consulting agency to study the expansion of Cochin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the consulting agency has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when is it likely submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI I.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges under the Expansion Programme

3098. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed to set up electronic telephone exchanges in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94 under the expansion programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any cut is being effected in the quota meant for Gujarat in regard to those exchanges; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The targets for setting up telephone exchanges in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir, the targets for both years were achieved in Gujarat.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise targets for setting up Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94

S. No.	Name of State/ Circle	1992-93 (Gross Lines) Target	1993-94 (Gross Lines) Target
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132376	153760
2.	Assam	20920	22480
3.	Bihar	32420	67220
4.	Gujarat, incl. UT of Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman, Div.	146700	197060
5.	Haryana	61120	61860
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14600	21280
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14712	13280
8.	Karnataka	83032	155996
9.	Kerala incl, UT of Lakshadweep	158800	124900
10.	Madhya Pradesh	105900	115200